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| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.             | CONFIRMATION NO.            |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 10/702,462  | 11/07/2003  | Sang Kyun Lee        | P23471                          | 8284                        |
| 7055  | 7590        | 10/19/2007           |                                 |                             |
| GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.<br>1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE<br>RESTON, VA 20191 |             |                      | EXAMINER<br>CHEEMA, UMAR        |                             |
|   |             |                      | ART UNIT<br>2144                | PAPER NUMBER                |
|   |             |                      | NOTIFICATION DATE<br>10/19/2007 | DELIVERY MODE<br>ELECTRONIC |

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

gbpatent@gbpatent.com  
pto@gbpatent.com

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/702,462

Applicant(s)

LEE ET AL.

Examiner

Umar Cheema

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 August 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                       | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>08/02/2007</u>  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. This action is responsive to the Amendment filed on 02 October 2007. Claims 1-11 are pending, of which Claims 1-11 have been amended.

Applicant's argument, see remarks, filed 08/02/2007, with respect to Supplemental Information Disclosure (IDS) filed on 08/02/2007 has been fully considered and is persuasive. The IDS has been considered, initialed and signed by the examiner.

Applicant's argument, see remarks, filed 08/02/2007, with respect to Drawings has been fully considered and is persuasive. The Drawing filed on 11/07/2003 and not filed on December 2, 2003 are acceptable to the Examiner.

Applicant's argument, see remarks, filed 08/02/2007, with respect to Objection to claim 6, has been fully considered and is persuasive. The Objection to claim 6 has been withdrawn.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
  2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
  3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
  4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
2. **Claims 1-11** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heitkamp et al (Heitkamp) (US 6,970, 961) in view of Jeffries (US 6,009,479).

Regarding **claim 1**, Heitkamp discloses a network system connected with multiple master devices (see abstract), comprising: a plurality of slave devices connected to a network that transmit and receive data through the network (see abstract, fig. 2); a master device configured to receive a control command and to output state information in response to the control command to control the plurality of slave devices (see abstract, col. 1, lines 28-35); and a network manager configured to generate the control command and to automatically assign a network address to the master device to

connect the master device to the network when the master device is newly connected to the network (see abstract, col. 1, lines 40-51).

Heitkamp discloses substantially the invention as claimed for the reason above however does not explicitly disclose wherein said a network manager configured to generate the control command and to automatically assign a network address to the master device to connect the master device to the network when the master device is newly connected to the network. However in the same field of invention Jeffries discloses a network manager configured to generate the control command and to automatically assign a network address to the master device to connect the master device to the network when the master device is newly connected to the network (see abstract, col. 2, lines 16-25; automatically assigning addresses to agents on a bus). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art of networking at the time of the invention to combine the teaching of Heitkamp and Jeffries for a network system connected with multiple master devices configured to generate the control command and to automatically assign a network addresses to the master device to connect the master device to the network when the master device is newly connected to the network. Motivation for doing so would have been that automatically assigning address the network manager will only have to identify hardware rather than address identification (Jeffries: see col. 4, lines 37-40).

Regarding **claim 2**, Heitkamp discloses teach the network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the network manager comprises: a master-device discriminator that

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determines whether the master device is newly connected to the network and that determines whether a unique address is associated with the master device (see col. 1, lines 28-35, 42-51, col. 2, lines 16-24); a search packet transmitter (see col. 3, lines 34-44) that generates a search packet for searching for the unique address associated with the master device and that transmits the generated search packet to the master device (see col. 1, lines 52-67); and an address notifier that transmits the unique address of the master device to a plurality of home appliances connected to the network (see col. 1, lines 55-67, col. 2, lines 5-10).

Regarding **claim 3**, Heitkamp discloses the network system as set forth in claim 2, wherein the address notifier comprises: a plug-in notifier that notifies the plurality of home appliances of the Unique address of the master device when the unique address is searched and is found for the master device (see col. 1, lines 55-67); and a specific address notifier that automatically generates a specific address when the search of the unique address is not successful and transmits a specific address notification packet for the notification of the generated specific address to the plurality of home appliances (see abstract, col. 1, lines 40-51, lines 52-67).

Regarding **claim 4**, the combination of Heitkamp and Jeffries disclose the network system as set forth in claim 3, wherein the specific address notifier automatically generates a specific address when a slave device is additionally connected to the network (see Heitkamp: col. 5, lines 10-15, lines 48-57, Jeffries: col. 2, lines 16-25) and

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transmits a specific address notification packet for the notification of the generated specific address to the master device (see col. 1, lines 40-51, lines 52-67).

Regarding **claim 5**, Heitkamp discloses the network system as set forth in claim 2, wherein the network manager further comprises: a counter connected to the search packet transmitter that counts the number of attempts to search for the unique address associated with the master device (see col. 3, lines 34-44).

Regarding **claim 6**, Heitkamp discloses the network system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the counter comprises: a determinator that determines when the search of the unique address corresponding to the master device is unsuccessful, and that further determines when the number of attempted searches exceed a predetermined number of searches (see abstract, col. 1, lines 28-35); and a specific address requestor that outputs a control signal to request the specific address notifier to automatically generate a specific address when the address search is determined by the determiner to be unsuccessful (see col. 1, lines 28-35, lines, 42-51).

Regarding **claim 7**, Heitkamp discloses the network system as set forth in claim 2, wherein the network manager further comprises: a data packet transmitter that generates a data packet containing state information of an existing master device and the plurality of slave devices connected to the network and transmits the generated data

packet to the master device (see col. 1, lines 60-67) and the existing master device, when the master device is connected to the network (see col. 1, lines 40-51).

**Regarding claim 8**, Heitkamp discloses a method of operating a network system connected with, at least one master device, the method (see abstract), comprising: connecting a new master device to a network with which a plurality of slave devices are connected (see abstract, fig. 2); searching for a unique address associated with the master device (see col. 1, lines 40-51); and notifying a plurality of home appliances connected to the network that the master device comprising the unique address has been appropriately connected to the network (see col. 3, lines 63-67, col. 4, lines 1-4).

Heitkamp discloses substantially the invention as claimed for the reason above however does not explicitly disclose wherein said notifying a plurality of home appliances connected to the network that the master device comprising the unique address has been appropriately connected to the network. However in the same field of invention Jeffries discloses notifying a plurality of home appliances connected to the network that the master device comprising the unique address has been appropriately connected to the network (see abstract, col. 2, lines 15-25, 39-49). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary persons in the art of networking at the time of invention to combine the teaching of Heitamp and Jeffries for a method of operating a network system connected with, at least one master device which a plurality of slave devices are connected and notifying a plurality of home appliances connected to the network that the master device comprising the unique address has been appropriately



connected to the network. Motivation for doing so would have been that automatically assigning address the network manager will only have to identify hardware rather than address identification (Jeffries: see col. 4, lines 37-40).

Regarding **claim 9**, the combination of Heitkamp and Jeffries disclose the method as set forth in claim 8, wherein notifying further comprises: repeating a search of the unique address associated with the master device (Heitkamp: see col. 1, lines 40-51); and automatically generating a specific address and assigning the generated specific address to the master device when the search of the unique address is unsuccessful (Jeffries: see abstract, col. 2, lines 16-25).

Regarding **claim 10**, Heitkamp discloses a method of operating a network system connected with at least one master device, the method (see abstract), comprising: connecting a home appliance to a network with which a plurality of slave devices and an existing master device have been connected (see fig. 2, col. 3, lines 63-67, col. 4, lines 1-4); notifying at least one of the plurality of slave devices that the home appliance has been connected to the network by transmitting a unique address assigned to the home appliance to the at least one of the plurality of slave devices (see col. 1, lines 52-67, col. 2, lines 5-10); determining whether the home appliance is a master device and transmitting, to the home appliance, a data packet containing state information of at least one of the plurality of slave devices when it is determined that the home appliance is the master device (see col. 4, lines 24-32); and transmitting the data packet to the

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existing master device when the existing master device is used along with the master device (see col. 1, lines 52-67).

Heitkamp discloses substantially the invention as claimed for the reason above however does not explicitly disclose wherein said notifying at least one of the plurality of slave devices that the home appliance has been connected to the network by transmitting a unique address assigned to the home appliance to the at least one of the plurality of slave devices. However in the same field of invention Jeffries discloses notifying at least one of the plurality of slave devices that the home appliance has been connected to the network by transmitting a unique address assigned to the home appliance to the at least one of the plurality of slave devices (see abstract, col. 2, lines 15-25, 39-49). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary persons in the art of networking at the time of invention to combine the teaching of Heitkamp and Jeffries for a method of operating a network system connected with, at least one master device which a plurality of slave devices are connected and notifying at least one of the plurality of slave devices that the home appliance has been connected to the network by transmitting a unique address assigned to the home appliance to the at least one of the plurality of slave devices. Motivation for doing so would have been that automatically assigning address the network manager will only have to identify hardware rather than address identification (Jeffries: see col. 4, lines 37-40).

Regarding **claim 11**, the combination of Heitkamp and Jeffries disclose the method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the determining further comprises: notifying an additionally

connected slave device of the unique address of the master device when the connected slave device is connected to the network (see Heitkamp: col. 5, lines 10-15, lines 48-57, Jeffries: abstract, col. 2, lines 15-25).

### ***Conclusion***

3. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Umar Cheema whose telephone number is 571-270-3037. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00AM-5:00PM.

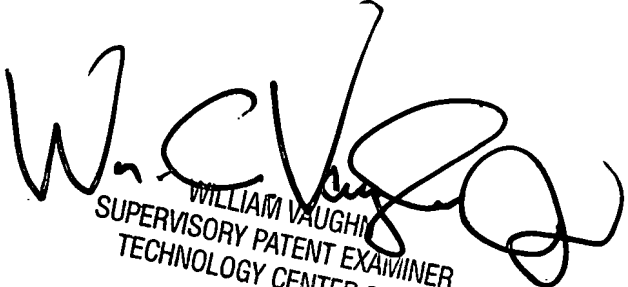
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Vaughn, Jr. can be reached on 571-272-3922. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

uc

  
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